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2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT



“We hear from parents whose children really miss school. They can’t wait to get back into the classroom. We can’t wait either. Interaction provides social and emotional interactions we all need.”

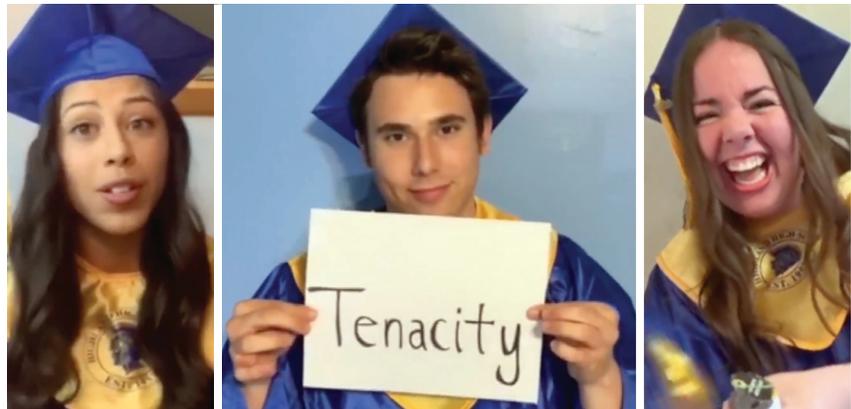
Getting back on track in Highland schools

From the moment our schools closed and we implemented an emergency, distance-learning curriculum, the Highland School Board and leadership have been working plans to reopen.

In the early days of the pandemic, that plan included guidance from the Indiana State Department of Education and the governor and an order to remain closed. Most recently those state agencies have turned over authority to the Lake County Health Department with an order to find a way to return our students, teachers, parents and families to a normal that will keep everyone safe.

I am pleased to announce we will have details soon about what reopening is going to look like for the Highland schools. In tandem with the superintendents of Lake County’s 15 other school corporations, we are working on how to proceed as a group that has the best interests of all Lake County school children in mind.

While there may be some variations because of increases in Covid-19 numbers in individual



CLASS OF 2020 VIRTUAL GRADUATION: Highland High School’s Class of 2020 celebrated graduation virtually. From the National Anthem and student speeches to acceptance of diplomas and tassel turning, the ceremony captured the pomp and circumstance of a traditional graduation ceremony. Visit hhs.highland.k12.in.us to download a program and view the Class of 2020 virtual graduation ceremony, Gov. Holcomb video, senior slide show, senior song and Highland High School teacher send-off.

communities, we are developing as a cohesive group. Parents: please look for those details sometime in July or early August.

I want to offer up a big congratulations to Sadie Maples who earned a spot at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C., which was canceled. Sadie, you did us proud by making the team. Please know how excited we still are and wish you so much success as you begin your studies

as a college freshman.

More good news: the virtual graduation went off without a hitch. Plans are complete for an in-person, outdoor graduation for the class of 2020 at the football field the evening of July 24.

Enjoy your summer.
School’s coming.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland



Varsity choir records uplifting virtual spring concert

Long before any of us heard of COVID-19, Highland High School Choir Director David Markley was planning a Bohemian Rhapsody rendition of the 2020 spring concert.

Instead of canceling when school closed, Markley came up with a safe, social distancing performance that can be enjoyed for the ages on YouTube.

As it turns out, getting 40 voices, a soundtrack and video layered to create one performance is more challenging than its live cousin. What it took was intense work by students and the best technology has to offer.

“It was a combination of talents that led to the finished product. Our hometown talent who put in lots of practice, Google Classroom and California-based Arts Laureate helped us put it all together,” he said. “Despite its challenges, this performance was a labor of love.”

“This process allowed me to create music one more time with my students this school year,” Markley said. “It was not the end any of us had hoped for. This helped soften the blow, giving students a lasting memory.”

It did all that and more for Senior Erin Perry.

“This performance was the most important high school activity I’ve done,” she said. “It brought me so much joy. Being able to sing with my choir one last time really helped me say goodbye and prepare to move on to new musical endeavors.”

New High School Principal John Zack was blown away.

“What a great example of the talent and time our kiddos put into making a quality product,” Zack said. “I am thankful it was shared with me. The talent, the effort and the finished product put a smile on my face.”

VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE – [HHS.HIGHLAND.K12.IN.US](https://hhs.highland.k12.in.us) – TO VIEW THE VIDEO
